THE SHIELD G-MAN CLUB FANZINE

VOLUME 2

February 2020

THE SHIELD G-MAN CLUB FANZINE

Volume 1, Number 2 February 2020

A HeroMachine Who's Who of the Mighty Crusaders 1
by Jim Burrows

Mighty Crusaders Updated 10
by Jason Contini

A Distinction of the Mighty MLJ/Archie Super Heroes ..11
by Joeseph Simon

Comic's Canadian Golden Age.....16
by Stephen Lipson

The Evaluation of the Shield 18
by Richard Vasseur

MLJ - Subtle Flavors 25
An Appreciation of the Non-Standard Hero Tree
by Joseph Kessler Adams

Stuart Logan: Society Detective.....31
by: Kevin Noel Olson

Last Days of the Fly!!, Part 1.....34
by Daniel St. John

Captain Action Ad .....Inside back cover
by Joe Ahearn

Rik Offenberger Editor-in-Chief
Jim Burrows Editor & Production
Earl Wajenberg, Copy Editor
Jon Singer, Copy Editor
Ron Krueger, Copy Editor

Cover art by Jay Piscopo

The Shield G-Man Club Fanzine
Published occasionally by
G-Man Comics.
12973 Saddleback Place,
Chino CA 91710.

"MLJ" characters featured herein and related elements, logos, symbols, etc. are all registered trademarks of Archie Comics Publications Inc, unless otherwise stated and are used without permission. No copyright infringement is intended. THE SHIELD G-MAN CLUB FANZINE understands and recognizes the right of Archie Comics to enforce ownership of these trademarks, and does not dispute this. THE SHIELD G-MAN CLUB FANZINE believes that everything contained herein falls within the fair use clause of Trademarks and Copyrights, and pledges full cooperation with Archie Comics to protect its trademarks. THE SHIELD G-MAN CLUB FANZINE is in no way affiliated with, recognized, sponsored, approved or authorized by Archie Comics. The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of Archie Comics. THE SHIELD G-MAN CLUB FANZINE serves as a non-profit scholarly work, which reviews, promotes, and documents all elements of "MLJ" in all media. This magazine is a free PDF download. Print copies are available from the printer, Ka-Blam with no profits paid content creators or editorial staff. Some illustrations and words are the creation of others, and may or may not have appeared in other publications or web sites. Their inclusion in THE SHIELD G-MAN CLUB FANZINE is not intended as an infringement of their copyright in any way but rather is done in the interest of documenting and reviewing pieces of comic book history within the fair use clause of Trademarks and Copyrights. "MLJ" and other related properties and images are TM & © by Archie Comics, the Fly and Lancelot Strong are TM & © Joe Simon Properties, !mpact is TM & © DC Comics. Ruby Red Copyright © 2019 Jim Burrows, Mister Satan & Red Rube Not Copyright, public domain character. THE SHIELD G-MAN CLUB FANZINE holds no Trademarks or Copyrights of any kind to any information on this site.

Printed in the U.S.A. by Ka-Blam

This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition, nor affixed to, nor as part of any advertising literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.

Shield

Created by: Adam Christopher, Chuck Wendig, and David Williams
Real Name: Victoria Adams
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Mighty Crusaders (vol. 4) #1
First Appearance: The Shield (vol. 2) #1 December 2015
Origin: Victoria Adams was a rogue saboteur and guerrilla soldier during the American Revolution. She fell into the hands of the Burning Hand society. She continued to resurface across the centuries, serving in every major armed conflict conducted by the USA. The legend of "America's Shield" inspired Joe Higgin's father and his experiments. Victoria's most recent return saw her get involved with the splinter black-ops cell Black Seven. After bringing down the agency from within, she was brought into M.L.J. by Director Higgins and made the head of the newest incarnation of the Mighty Crusaders.

Steel Sterling

Created by: Abner Sundell & Charles Biro
Real Name: Johnathan "Jack" Sterling
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Prior to Archie's Weird Mysteries #3
First Appearance: Zip Comics #1 February 1940
Origin: John was enjoying life as a career bodybuilder and movie star when he agreed to help a friend with a "little debt problem." What his friend had left outlaws that he was indebted to the mob for a few million. John was thrown in molten steel at an industrial metalwork facility to send a message. Miraculously, John survived, his body tempered into something super-human. He joined the Mighty Crusaders using his stage name, Steel Sterling.

Wizard

Created by: Harry Shorten & Edd Ashe
Real Name: Blain Whitney
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Prior to Archie's Weird Mysteries #3
First Appearance: Top-Notch Comics #1, December 1939
Origin: Trained from youth to be a mental wizard, Blain possesses a photographic memory and super-sensory perception, which allow him to tune into criminal activity. His costume also made him invulnerable. Ever since the founding of the United States of America, the Whitney family has served America and have helped the country in its hour of need.

NIGHTMARE

A Distinction of the Mighty MLJ/Archie Super Heroes

by Joeseph Simon

If alternative Earths are real, I like to think that the Mighty Crusaders and associated heroes are as popular as, if not more so than, Marvel and DC's, on many of them. That would be amazing!

Whenever I see a comic with the Mighty Crusaders and other Archie superheroes, they are immediately identifiable. Seeing them creates an associated positive feeling. It's a bit strange if you think about it. Throughout their 80 year history, these heroes have been handled in different ways, yet I enjoy them all.

Even in their early golden age history, MLJ heroes stood apart from other heroes in the comic book industry.

The industry was very different then than what we know today. Marvel was known as Timely and Timely didn't have the Stan Lee or the Marvel Style of creating comics. DC was known as National Comics. If not for reprints and the comic industry media, the early history of the comic industry would be completely unrecognizable to today's readers.

Comics started out as an extension of the pulps. Reading the adventures of the golden age Black Hood, Shield, Steel Sterling, Bob Phantom and the adventures of other MLJ heroes shows a definitive pulp influence. An influence perhaps even greater than National (DC) or Timely (Marvel) at the time.

All three companies shared obvious traits of the pulps—from the anthology style titles, the art to common plots of gangster or Nazi enemies and other pulp trappings. Yet, there is a feeling of distinctiveness when you read an MLJ superhero tale.

Our heroes, the MLJ heroes, kept the anthology format and pulp atmosphere of their art and stories throughout the MLJ era, more so than the other superhero companies of the time. That would change over time.

Time changes everything! The comic industry's early history was a turbulent one. While the comic industry had rough times, the industry took the worst and turned it into greatness.

Every company was affected by these changes. Archie was no different.

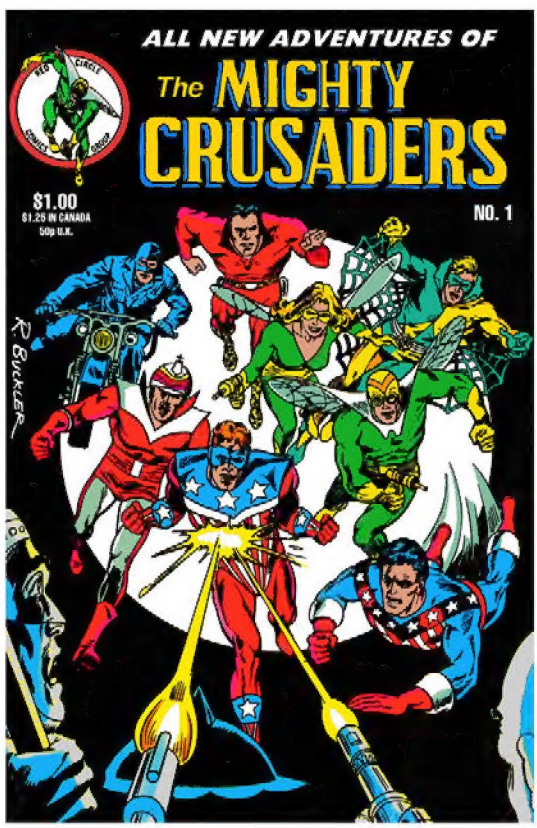
As time went by, it was quickly established that the Riverdale gang was the star of the company. Archie worked hard on a different method of distribution that has served it well ever since.

MLJ became Archie Comics and their growth had everything to do with the Riverdale gang. The superhero line, not so much. It felt like the superhero creations were walled off from the rest of the company.

Where Marvel and DC reboot, reset, reimagine, remix their superhero universes, Archie stops publishing their heroes and then brings them back as either their own or licensed properties. Bringing their heroes back always brings changes to them. These changes usually revolved around the era in question, who was in charge, and the creators brought in to handle the titles.

One of the highlights of the entire history of the MLJ/Archie eras is the creators that were involved with these properties. It's truly fascinating.

In no particular order: Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, Gray Morrow, Alex Toth, Joe Simon, Ian Flynn, J. Michael Straczynski, Bill Sienkiewicz, Greg and Tim Hildebrandt, Michael Urslan, Brian Augustyn, Dave Cockrum, Paul Kupperberg, Gene Ha, Alex Segura, Duane Swierczynski, Michael Gaydos, Mark Waid, Dean Haspiel, Jimmy Palmiotti, Joe Quesada, Gil Kane, Bill Dubay, Trevor Von Eeden, Alex Nino, Carmine Infantino, Rich Buckler, Dick Ayers, Neal Adams, Jim Sherman, John Severin, Jim Steranko, Frank Giacoia, Rudy Nebres, Dick Giordano, Jerry Siegel, George Tuska, Al Williamson, John Rosenberger, Irv Novick, Charles Biro, Mort Meskin, Bob Wood, Paul Reinman, Jack Cole, Harry Shorten is just a short list of creators who have worked on the MLJ and Archie superheroes. Add to that, creators Mike Gold, Steve Englehart, Jim Valentino, Len Wein, Kelley Jones, Rob Liefeld, who were involved in Spectrum titles that were never published. It's obvious Archie Comics respected their superheroes.



These creators, and others unlisted, all worked on the Archie superheroes and they all have contributed to the industry in untold and important ways.

Many are considered legends and architects of the comic industry. Comic book royalty! Each has added not only to the comic industry, but helped mold our heroes into what they are today. Archie certainly hired the right talent. I think any company would be envious of such a roster.

As a fan of each era, I believe there is something magical about the Red Circle Comics under Rich Buckler that is echoed in the more modern titles that Ian Flynn and Mark Waid / Dean Haspiel have worked on.

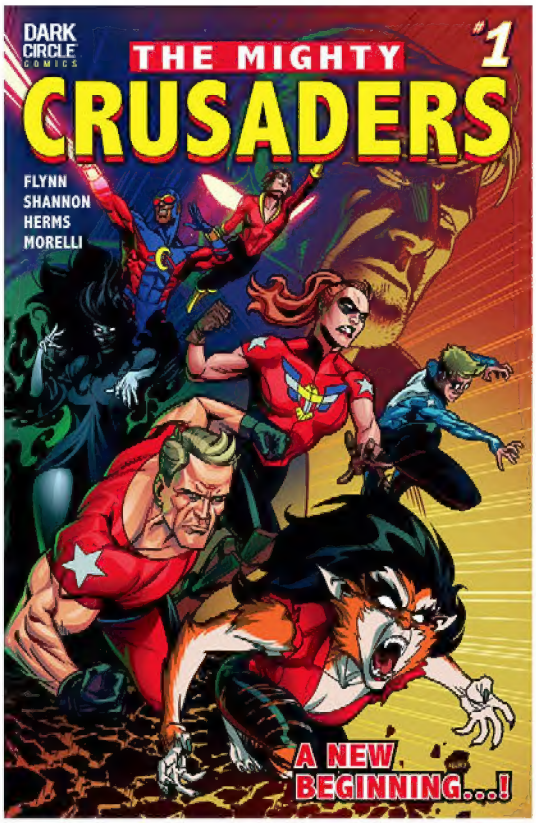
These comics had a modern sensibility with yesterday's feel good. A balance that is compelling and interesting. To me, it really makes the team and the individual members stand apart from the rest of the comic world, and shine. This is exactly what the heroes need. They are not creations to copycat off of others. They can stand apart and add to the industry. Archie needs to embrace their heroes' exciting history and find a way to make that work in today's industry.

In truth, they have accomplished that already. Rich Buckler, Ian Flynn, Haspiel, Waid and J. Michael Straczynski for example, shared an understanding of the Archie heroes, the history of the characters that came before, and comics as a medium. They obviously have a genuine affection for the heroes.

A creator's affection for a creation, even if not their own, is something interesting to note. For example, I noticed with all these comic book movies, that there is a noticeable difference between Marvel comics movies made by passionate directors and writers of the property *vs* people who were just hired to do a job. There is a world of difference between the movies that featured Marvel characters of the past and the movies from the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Archie Comics, to me, is on the same level as Marvel and DC. To many, this might seem surprising. I think it is because Archie operates in a different fashion than Marvel and DC, keeping in mind Archie Comics has been around since 1939. They have a distribution that is huge and utilizes an entirely different mechanism than methods available to Marvel and DC.

The MLJ period of their super heroes is also interesting for another reason. It was a period of the industry in its infancy, trying to find its way. Untethered to convention and expectation. It stands in sharp contrast to modern comics.



There is, in today's quickly changing times, a compulsion to take something from the past and make it something else and call it a reset for modern audiences. I think every property is unique unto itself and how each company treats its creation should be equally so. Archie doesn't have to follow Marvel down the yellow brick road nor DC. Archie has shown that they can do serious and still be fun. This is a differentiator. Archie superheroes can stand on their own and, as in the past, be untethered to convention and expectation.

Archie's main property has forged its own path and identity. Archie Comics has succeeded splendidly with Archie and the gang. Archie Comics has a remarkable distribution that also sets the business itself apart from Marvel and DC. I think it has a different business outlook than other comic book companies.

Where other companies might have jettisoned properties that stand apart from the main company, Archie always demonstrated something special with its super heroes. In fact, I think Archie Comics having its own unique identity in the industry is part of the reason its heroes stand apart from other superheroes in the industry.

All together, the Mighty Crusaders' history may be 80 years long. Their output might not be as voluminous as DC or Marvel's. On the flip side, their history isn't as convoluted and contaminated by resets, crises, and relaunches as the big two. (Mind you, they have had their share.)

Given everything I've written, when I see the team and its characters, no matter what era in their history, I want to read it. I want to see more. From the golden age to the camp and onward, I understand the intricacies of the period that each of these eras of the Mighty Crusaders and associated heroes have existed in during its 80 year history, and accept the eccentricities of each.

If I dwell on the idea of alternative Earths heralding the Mighty Crusaders as big and popular as Marvel and DC's heroes, I might get envious.

Then again, maybe, in our reality, things worked out right....who knows? The Mighty Crusaders' sporadic nature over the decades has protected it from over-saturation. It is possible to collect all their adventures, in all their incarnations, and all the while, enjoy the hunt of finding them all. And you know that sooner or later, there will be new adventures to look forward to!

Our reality preserved the heroes for maximum enjoyability.

Thank you to MLJ/Archie, the creators and fans who make these heroes great.

and Happy Birthday to the MLJ/Archie Superheroes and Archie Comics!

AWESOME
STEVEN BUTLER
ART PRINTS
ORIGINAL ART
COMMISSIONS
COMIC BOOKS
PLUS OTHER FUN STUFF!
www.morttodd.com/butler.html
stevenbutlerstudios@gmail.com
All art by & © Steven Butler. All characters, logos and devices © and ™ their respective owners.

Comic's Canadian Golden Age

SUPER COMICS

by Stephen Lipson

Not many people are aware that Canada published their own comics during the Golden Age. These wartime era comics hosted a stable of superheroes that were both analogous and indigenous to Canada. Such iconic heroes as Nelvana of the Northern Lights and her brethren spoke to Canada's role both on the Home front and smashing the Axis abroad.

These comics were published primarily from 1941-1946, as a result of the implementation of the War Exchange Conservation Act, wherein non-essential items were prohibited for import into Canada, including pulp literature. As a result, Canada started its own fledgling comic book industry.

These comics were essentially published with colour covers, with interiors that were published in black and white, in order to defray costly publishing expenses. Hence, these comics are now referred to as "Canadian Whites" by both collectors and historians alike. That said, the very early issues of Wow Comics published by Bell Features and the very early issues of Better Comics published by Maple Leaf sport colour interiors.

The first publisher was Maple Leaf Publishing out of Vancouver, BC with books such as Better Comics, Rocket Comics, Bing Bang Comics, and Lucky Comics. The aforementioned Maple Leaf comics introduced the first Canadian superhero in Better Comics #1 in March of 1941 (The Iron Man). Maple Leaf comics are deemed to be the scarcest and command a premium when changing hands. Anglo American (Double "A") Publishing in Toronto introduced Freelance and a host of Fawcett derived characters to Canada, including Captain Marvel and Spy Smasher. The next publisher was Bell Features in Toronto with Johnny Canuck, Nelvana, the Penguin and Thunderfist, etc. in such flagship titles as Dime Comics, Triumph Comics, Active Comics, and Commando Comics. Finally, Educational Projects out of Montreal, Quebec introduced Canada Jack in its flagship title, Canadian Heroes.

It is important to note that these vestiges of Canadian Pop Culture helped create a Canadian identity within their pages. Canada Jack was an athlete that battled the 5th column saboteurs on the Canadian home front in Canadian Heroes comic books. While he was not larger than life and not endowed with superpowers, the Canadian youth of the Second World War at home could emulate and subsequently identify with Canada Jack. This sort of homegrown sentiment could also be likened to Johnny Canuck, who while also not larger than life, helped smash the Axis abroad, including Hitler.

Nelvana was the first superhero with a Canadian national identity and graced the pages of Triumph Comics. In fact, Nelvana pre-dated Wonder Woman by almost four months! She came to aid of the indigenous peoples of the North West Territories in her early appearances and could fly along the Aurora Borealis.

Sadly, the War Exchange Conservation Act was repealed in 1946, and subsequently, American comic books were allowed to be imported into Canada. Hence, Captain America and Superman and their brethren replaced their Canadian counterparts in full colour for only a dime. This ushered in the demise of the "Canadian Whites", as the floundering industry could no longer compete. The last ditch efforts to produce Canadian homegrown comics in full color just did not stand up against their American predecessors Subsequently, many of the publishing houses in Canada folded, including Anglo-American publishing, Maple Leaf Publishing, and eventually Bell Features.

— Stephen Lipson —

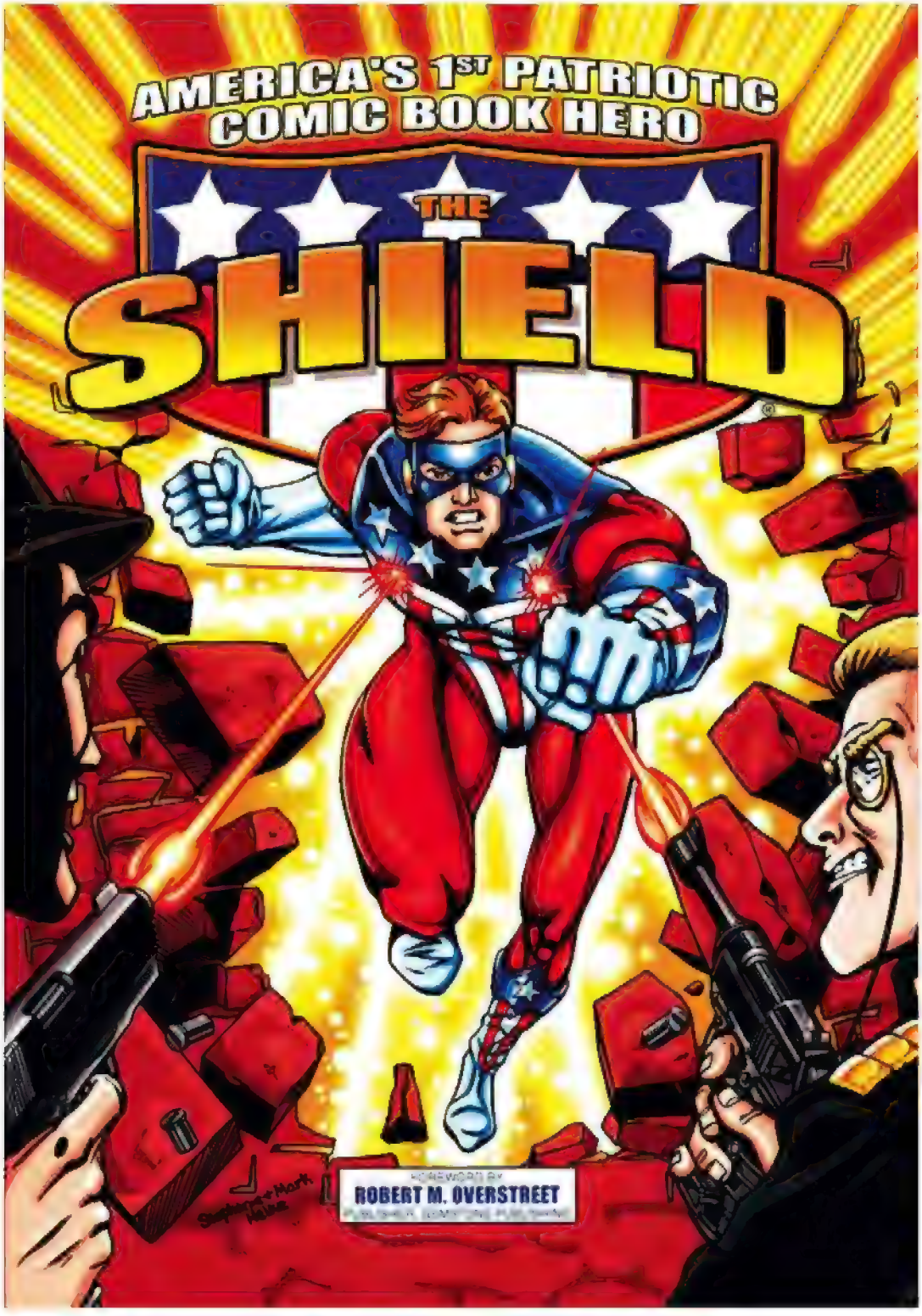
Brought to you by

THE SHIELD G-MAN CLUB

https://www.facebook.com/groups/shieldgmanclub

The Evaluation of the Shield

by Richard Vasseur



Joe Higgins is the most patriotic version of the Shield. He is the original. This version is your classic super-hero. He also appears later on as an old man running a new Crusaders team.

A HeroMachine Who's Who

HEROMACHINE

of the Mighty Crusaders

by Jim Burrows

The Mighty Crusaders Network has a number of catalogs of the many MLJ superheroes. This one features images created using the HeroMachine Web app, focusing on the early appearance of each character.

Black Hood

Created by: Cliff Campbell & Al "Camy" Camerata
Real Name: Matthew Kipling "Kip" Burland
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Adventures of the Fly #31
First Appearance: Top-Notch Comics #9, October 1940

Origin: Patrolman, Kip Burland, was attacked by the Skull, who framed him for robbing a jewelry store. Burland was discharged from the force. When Burland tried to capture the Skull on his own he was shot and thrown in the woods. A man called the Hermit rescued him and trained him to become the Black Hood. As the Black Hood, Burland was able to clear his name. He now fights crime as both a lawman and a vigilante.

Blackjack

Created by: Al "Camy" Camerata
Real Name: Jack Jones
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Prior to Archie's Weird Mysteries #3
First Appearance: Zip Comics #20, November 1941
Origin: Jack Jones, a detective who likes to play blackjack at the police station, is captured and presumed murdered by criminals. He escapes and goes undercover as Black Jack.

Joseph Higgins—this version is more of a solder. He is a more updated version of the Shield using nanotechnology.

Lancelot Strong here we see the powers in the man at their greatest for any version of the Shield. His origin is similar to Superman's in some aspects.

Bill Higgins is the son of the original Shield and he is not as powerful as his father.

Michael Barnes was the Shield in a revamped version of the Shield.

Victoria Adams is the first female Shield. Here we see a super-hero who is portrayed as human. With her and her teammates, you get more drama than any of the other versions.

THE SHIELD

The Shield in any incarnation has always being a hero.

The Shield is a patriot who symbolizes America at its finest. Through the decades the Shield has undergone changes even going from a man to a woman. The Shield is a hero everyone can look up to.

Nanotechnology was added for Joseph as a way of updating the Shield and bringing him into a more modern world. Lancelot—now with him the mind was used to create his powers and he was made extremely more powerful. Bill, we see as the son of Joe was carrying on the tradition. Michael was a more impactful version of the Shield. Victoria—now she is the most real version of the Shield. With her you see her struggling to lead the team of the Crusaders. She has doubts and she, at her core, is just a woman doing the best she can.

The Shield is a person who stands up for the people. That is what truly makes the Shield a hero.

Join Today!

THE SHIELD G-MAN CLUB

https://www.facebook.com/groups/shieldgmanclub

MLJ - Subtle Flavors

An Appreciation of the Non-Standard Hero Tree

by Joseph Kessler Adams

I was eight, living in the 1930s world of 1950s West Virginia. Life sucked.

A neighbor wanted to show me new comics. I had been following **Popeye**, **Tarzan**, **Batman**, and **Superboy** for a couple of years, so—sure. But he produced something that I had never seen before. It wasn't anything I had known from Dell or DC, the only comic companies I could name at the time. It was **THE FLY #1**.

I was eight—too young to remember Billy Batson and his magic word—Shazam!—to become a powerful man. Here was the story of little, abused orphan boy Tommy Troy who encountered a different magic mentor with huge eyes and a turban—Turan—who gave him a ring, like the ring of the genie from the Tales of Aladdin. And Turan also supplied him with it the magic words that would turn him into a powerful man. A super-powered man, with abilities that took this little boy to another world.

ARCHIE ADVENTURE SERIES
ADVENTURES OF
THE FLY
NOV.
I THE FLY DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT NOTHING SHALL KEEP ME FROM FULFILLING MY SACRED VOW.. TO ERASE CRIME FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH!!

And I was ready to go.

He had two more issues—and the last, with the red "Oath" cover—stayed with me. I devoured them in one afternoon. I went looking for more, but there were no more. I was infected with the joy of something different, something new, in my eight-year-old life.

My family moved away and I lost touch with the friend with cool comics. I remembered that the comic had the unusual brand of "Archie Adventure" in the corner. I had seen Archie comics before, but could something as boring as "Archie' give rise to something as cool as the Fly?

When I saw **Challengers of the Unknown**, I was ready. I had no idea it was the same team that had created The Fly—Simon and Kirby. Who knew comic creators had names in those days. But then I saw the Flash, who was clearly not Batman or Superman, and I was addicted. Green Lantern in Showcase—I was on it. **Star Hawkins** the space detective with his robot secretary Ilda, or the trips to the **Space Museum** in my cousin's **Strange Adventures** comics … I was there.

WHO IS THIS MAN? WHAT IS HE? WHAT IS THE INCREDIBLE SECRET THAT MAKES HIM THE MOST FEARSOME FIGHTING MACHINE EVER ENCOUNTERED IN THE BATTLE FOR JUSTICE?
MEET LANCELOT STRONG
THE MAN WITH THE DOUBLE LIFE!
SEE HIM HURL BOLTS OF LIGHTNING GENERATED IN HIS OWN BODY...
GASP AT THE REFLEXES THAT MAKE THE DEADLIEST WEAPONS AT POINT BLANK RANGE!
WATCH HIM ADAPT TO TEMPERATURES IN WHICH NOTHING CAN STAY ALIVE!
FOLLOW HIM INTO UNIMAGINABLE DEPTHS WHERE NO MAN CAN FOR LONG— BEGIN THE AMAZING, SPINE-TINGLING ADVENTURES OF THE SHIELD—A NEW AND DIFFERENT TYPE OF HERO WHO PACKS THE PUNCH OF A HYDROGEN BOMB!
DARKNESS CANNOT STOP HIM—NO MORE THAN IT DOES THE BAT, WHOSE UNCANNY INSTINCT IS MORE ACCURATE THAN RADAR!
BEGIN HIS STORY NOW—ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES!

My family moved again, this time to Los Angeles and in a little mom and pop neighborhood store halfway between home and school, I found a comic rack. In that rack, I found a strange cover—with the Archie Adventure in the corner. It was a guy wearing a vague, American flag costume under his drab army browns. I was not impressed by the cover (I still think it was George Tuska), but the first page was that spectacular introduction to Lancelot Strong—The Shield.

I didn't know there had been a Shield before him. I didn't care. Here was the same feeling I had when I read those first issues of The Fly. Again, I didn't know who Simon & Kirby were so I couldn't appreciate the coincidence. But this time it was a hero who not only had muscles and strength, but cold generate electricity with his flexed muscles—so how much cooler could he possibly need.

And there were more issues of The Fly, but the art had changed and wasn't as dynamic to me. But my first exposure to Tommy Troy and then Lancelot Strong made me want something than the mainstream flavors that DC gushed—I had developed a taste for the gourmet flavor of small press and niche heroes. I had broken out of the normal American comic diet.

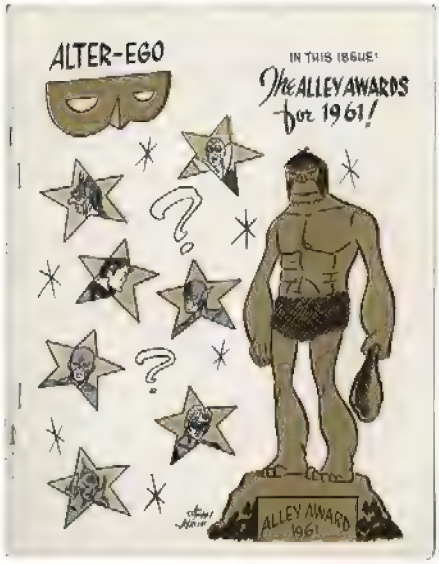
Within months of discovering The Shield, the Silver Age of comics exploded upon me. The **Justice League of America** combined four characters I already knew (Superman, Batman, Flash, and Green Lantern) with some I had seen but did not care about—the **Martian Manhunter**, **Aquaman** and **Wonder Women** (girls still had cooties, then). Hawkman fought a dragon from the entrance of a traffic tunnel and the **Atomic Knights** saved America after the atomic war of far-off 1992 and the **Star Rovers** got it wrong in farther off outer space (which I had not yet discovered). My love of the Fly was sullied by inferior artwork, and Lancelot Strong was gone.

Marvel began spewing Superheroes like bullets from a great hero-gun and I was swamped by spandex and mutants. But when another Archie Adventure comic hit the stands, I snapped it up. **The Jaguar** was the first fresh of breath air from the same-old miasma that super- and science fiction-heroes had become.

And later on, the Jaguar letter page (I think it was Issue 8) introduced a fan-drawn cover for a new group, the **Anti-Crime Squad** on the letter page with The Fly, The Shield, **The Black Hood**, **Fly Girl,** and The Jaguar—a precursor to the **Mighty Crusaders**. But the seed was planted.

Around this time I found another unique flavor. Fanzines. A friend introduced me to **Rocket's Blast/ Comicollector**, **Star Studded Comics #6** and **Alter Ego #4** in the same afternoon. They were also different from the Marvel DC burgers and fries flavors. These were tacos and dim sum in a world of fried chicken. Nothing wrong with fried chicken but—tacos!

And Alter Ego #4 had an article that struck me. "**MLJ Leads The Way**," the story of the 1940s comic characters that were the original source for what would be the Archie line—would be the source for Archie, himself. I learned about the original Shield and other characters who ran with him. **Hangman**, **Mr. Justice**, **The Black Hood** (I remembered seeing The Black Hood in a few panels of The Fly and on the cover of the Anti-Crime Squad). Almost immediately I got a copy of Star Studded Comics #7 and realized they were copying the graphics from **Jackpot Comics**.



I almost lost it. The flavors I loved came from somewhere. And in the early 1960s, a few bookstores (which had already become my home away from home) offered back issue comics—5¢ for the DC and Marvel, but a few dollars for the twenty-year-old originals. In those days the 1940s were as close as the Y2K Bug is to us. My dad paid $3 for my first Golden Age comic (**Comic Cavalcade #17**) and ranted for weeks about paying $3 for a 10¢ comic.

But the floodgate was open and I found one store that sold old **Shadow** and **Amazing** pulps for 25¢ and old MLJs for 50¢. I was on the bus a lot and was usually curled up in one of the back seats with one of these treasures, learning to savor the smell of musty old newsprint as I read.

Pep Comics became my favorites, including the issue that introduced Archie. But Jackpot was the first cover I actually had seen—on the back cover of Alter Ego #4 in a tiny black and white photograph. I had them full size, in full, smelly, color! There seemed to be a bit more meat on the bones of these character than for many of the pointless Superman wannabes hosted by (literally) dozens of publishers.

The stories for MLJ were straight out of radio adventure series or movie serial chapters, and the art was a cut above. Irv Novick, who later did a lot of war comics for DC, was the prime mover and shaker for The Shield. And a young Japanese-American Artist, Fujitake—working as "Fuji"—made an impression on me during those long bus rides. I just like his stylized anatomy and extreme facial expression for his run on The Hangman. And he seemed to have a thing for lynching people, which was, unfortunately, appropriate for the title character.

Personal taste, but I liked him.

When Batman hit the small screen there was a hope from comic book fans, followed by the massive disappointment of watching the actual show. Our heroes were mythologized and trivialized. They

were discounted and held up for ridicule and mass marketing. I should be grateful because the success of that show with the general public encouraged Richard Goldwater, the publisher of what was then Archie Comics, to dip his corporate toes back into the hero world.

THE HANGMAN
IN MURDER BY APPOINTMENT
IN THIS ISSUE I WAS SUPPOSED TO APPEAR IN THE ADVENTURES OF THE SINGING CORPSE BUT I WAS PLEDGED TO KEEP IT SECRET FOR CERTAIN REASONS, SO I WITHHOLD THIS TALE UNTIL THE NEXT ISSUE OF PEP COMICS... YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHAT THOSE REASONS ARE NEXT MONTH.
BUT NOW I GIVE YOU A CASE AS WEIRD AND DANGEROUS AS ANY I'VE HAD!
The Hangman

The Archie Adventure trademark was revived for The Shadow. The first issue could be argued to be the same character as inhabited the classic pulp magazines I had read (I had yet to discover the old radio recordings), but almost immediately he was given a pointless green and blue spandex outfit and treated like a failed Batman clone. And fail he did—the Shadow vanished from the Archie Adventure line-up. As did the Archie Adventure logo.

There was a shred of readership for The Fly after years of watered-down tastes. The Jaguar was gone, but because of the television show, The Fly was rechristened Fly-Man, Fly-Girl remained the same, but the old MLJ roster was raided. **The Comet** returned but with a silly rainbow helmet and no explanation for his powers. The Black Hood was resurrected with a robot horse (why?). The Shield skipped over the Simon & Kirby reinvention from 1960 in favor of the 1940s version, but no explanation for a 20-year absence (at least Captain American had been frozen in ice). Archie Adventure Comics vanished in favor of **"Mighty Comics"** and the name of the publisher became **Radio Comics**, even though Goldwater remained publisher for both Radio and Archie lines.

They were weak. The artist who was hired to do most of the art—Paul Reinman—had been an artist in the original Golden Age, but never and "A" list talent. Joe Schuster, the co-creator of Superman, was tapped to write because his name would garner some press and he would work cheap (the settlement for co-creator status and royalties was still years away and he had to feed a family). Mike Sekowsky, who was the neutral flavor artist who had brought the very different styles of the DC characters together for a Justice League style that didn't favor anyone's original art style, was brought in for far too little work. A couple of other artists were brought in, but the tiny sliver of time inhabited by "Mighty" comics was mercifully short.

A whole roster of the old MLJ characters appeared, but they were only differentiated with trivial attempts at personalities (like The Web's sad, hen-pecked existence, which the young male readers that were the primary audience could not identify with, but apparently the old creators could). There were differences in costumes but no real changes of language or trademarks to identify them. And they could not attract—or hold—an audience of 1960s teenaged readers.

It was enough to plant seeds.

Richard Buckler, a fanzine editor doing his own heroes in Intrigue and Superhero ditto zines (drawing mostly on Jack Kirby lifts to populate his trips and drawing from a few other fanzine talents to fill out

Bob Phantom

Created by: Harry Shorten & Irv Novick
Real Name: Walter Whitney
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Prior to Archie's Weird Mysteries #3
First Appearance: Blue Ribbon Comics #2, December 1939
Origin: Columnist Walter Whitney was the first citizens to take to the streets and fight crime in the name of vigilante justice. Walter's costumed persona, Bob Phantom, haunted the world of drug dealers and organized crime using an array of mysterious abilities including teleportation and matter-transforming mists. Walter, whose aging has slowed considerably, now goes solely by Bob Phantom and serves aboard the M.L.J.'s orbital watch station.

Captain Commando

Created by: S. M. Iger & Alex Blum
Real Name: John Grayson
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Never joined the Mighty Crusaders.
First Appearance: Pep Comics #30, August 1942
Origin: Navy Commander John Grayson dons the uniform of Captain Commando to fight the Nazi behind enemy lines inspiring the troops as well as the civilians at home.
Origin: Navy Commander John Grayson fights the Nazi behind enemy lines as Captain Commando, with help from the Boy Soldiers. The Boy Soldiers consist of his son Billy Grayson, Gerald Sykes from England, Armand De Latour from France, Erik Jansen from Norway and Flatbush from American.

Captain Flag

Created by: Joe Blair & Lin Streeter
Real Name: Tom Townsend
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Prior to Archie's Weird Mysteries #3
First Appearance: Blue Ribbon Comics #16, September 1941
Origin: A master criminal who wants the plans for the father's latest invention kidnaps Tom Townsend and his inventor father. Tom watches helplessly as his father is strangled to death. An eagle crashes through a window and saves Tom. The eagle nurses Tom back to health. One day the eagle returns with an American Flag in its beak and Tom takes this as an omen. He makes a costume from the flag and returns to America to fight crime as Captain Flag.

his own zines). He was diligent, studied and became a journeyman comic artist in his own right. In a story not clear to me, somehow Richard convinced Goldwater to enter the superhero comic field again, probably by suggesting there was money being made in the Silver Age of Comics (Goldwater was always a businessman).

The Red Circle Comics line was created and Rich became the editor—I think he was the editor. Under his direction, The Shield, The Fly, The Jaguar, the Mighty Crusaders, and more of the old MLJ characters were given a new chance. **Steel Sterling**, **The Fox**, **Mr. Justice** and more began to appear in revived MLJ titles. The Mighty Crusaders, the names of whom were held firmly by Goldwater, were given a new life.

Some serious talent was attracted, including the legendary designer for most of the Hanna-Barbera superhero cartoon lines—Alex Toth. Toth was an established talent with comic books and his version of The Fox was probably the high watermark of the Red Circle effort.

Rich Buckler deserves credit for getting the project on the newsstands and his vision lasted longer than the Simon & Kirby reboot, and those were big shoes to fill.

Red Circle was a short-lived but encouraging project. The flavor of the MLJ characters returned. And it would return in many forms for years. For me, it was different chefs of varying talents trying to present the new meal they knew was possible. When you can't get a real mama's kitchen taco, Taco Bell will hold you for a while.

DC got the license to do the characters and created the new Impact comics line. Some young gun decided to make them more modern but lost the flavor. The Web stopped being an individual, if failed husband, and became an organization. The Jaguar got a sex change. The Fly and Fly-Girl were redesigned. Shield, Black Hood, and Steel Sterling all got rethinks. Mr. Justice was a more Spectre-like creepy character.

All good efforts, but not really what the market was looking for.

The inner eight-year-old who had been infected by the

bright red cover of the Fly #3 was pleased to see the intense, if ineffectual, attempt being made. There was talent in the kitchen and, given time, they might even get it right. Eventually.

There was one more attempt for the Impact line—the Next Generation approach where an aging Steel Sterling tried to recruit the children of the previous generation of heroes.

It could not find its footing.

Once more into the breach for the DC license with another generation of readers and a new line with the same, now familiar, characters. Good artists, possibly the best on the whole DC run. But again, it failed to find its audience.

Of all the attempts to bring the characters back to life, I have to say I think the newest, Dark Circle line, have made the best transition. For an old man (I'm closing in on 70... just a few months to go) I'm pleased to see the kids get a feel for these characters as individuals, with solid design, competent art, and more interesting stories.

It is a small line of titles, there are changes I may not agree with (like this time it is the Shield who has changed genders) but the teams seem to be committed to turning in a good comic experience for both old farts and the young audience for whom the flavors are all new.

And it smells like coming home for Thanksgiving.

Your editor notes that issue #7 of the Texas Trio's Star★Studded Comics was misprinted due to errors creating the color separations. The image to the right was created by swapping the channels cyan and magenta channels and then making a couple of small adjustments to hue and saturation, in hopes of reconstructing what was originally intended.

Stuart Logan: Society Detective

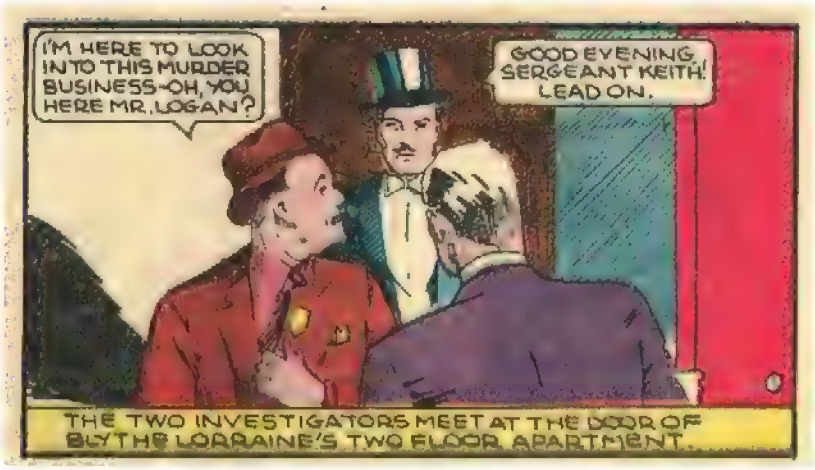
by: Kevin Noel Olson

·MYSTERY THRILLER OF THE MONTH·
Featuring
STUART LOGAN
STUART LOGAN - SOCIETY DETECTIVE - IS A WEALTHY, NONCHALANT BUT INTENSELY BRILLIANT AMATEUR SLEUTH. WHEN A CASE TURNS UP WHICH IS TOO DEEP FOR THE LOCAL POLICE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY GEORGE MARKWELL USUALLY ENLISTS THE AID OF THE SOCIETY DETECTIVE.
WHY CAN'T THEY CALL ME WHEN I'M AT MY OFFICE?
NIGHT HAS FALLEN, WHEN THE TELEPHONE RINGS AT THE HOME OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY GEORGE MARKWELL.

Like the Mystery Thriller of the Month feature, the featured character, Stuart Logan, only lasted for a single month. First appearing in Blue Ribbon Comics #3 (January, 1940) to never appear again, Stuart Logan engaged in detective work as a hobby. Described as a "wealthy, nonchalant but intensely brilliant amateur sleuth", Logan answered the call of District Attorney George Markwell when tough cases involving high society arose.

One such case is set in motion when the body of one Desmond Skagg, fiancé of socialite Blythe Lorraine, is discovered stabbed to death in her two-story apartment. Her butler, Parkins, calls in the murder to Markwell, who pairs Stuart Logan

with Sergeant Keith to solve the case. Aside from Parkins and Blythe, the only other suspect was Mr. Carlo Salusta who was Miss Lorraine's dinner guest at the time of the murder. Stuart Logan looks at the murder weapon; a decorative sword normally displayed on the wall. He notes that the sword's blade has dust on it, indicating it had only been recently removed.


I'M HERE TO LOOK INTO THIS MURDER BUSINESS-OH, YOU HERE MR. LOGAN?
GOOD EVENING, SERGEANT KEITH! LEAD ON.
THE TWO INVESTIGATORS MEET AT THE DOOR OF BLYTHE LORRAINE'S TWO FLOOR APARTMENT.

Sergeant Keith asks Blythe a pointed question, which causes Carlo to lose his cool at what he feels is an affront to Blythe. It's clear that Carlo and Blythe show interest in each other. Carlo later tosses suspicion toward Parkins, which causes the two suspects to fight.

Ultimately, Stuart Logan deduces that Blythe let the sword drop from her bedroom through a concealed aperture in the ceiling, thus murdering Skaggs.

THIS LADY MUST HAVE WANTED TO KILL HER FIANCE FOR THE MONEY HE WOULD LEAVE. SHE PLANNED IT WELL. WHEN HIS HEAD-ACHE CAME ON, SHE PUT HIM IN THE CHAIR IN THE CENTER OF THE ROOM...

As a character goes, Stuart Logan has promise. He's a capable detective with a sense of the upper crust he investigates. The story is not bad, given the few pages it fills in the comic. While there is no ready information on the creators, it seems quite likely to be a Jack Cole creation, based on the art and writing style, from a true crime story attributed to him at the end of the same comic book, Blue Ribbon #3.

Interestingly enough, this story predates Cole's more famous and long-lasting 1941 creation of Plastic Man. While a slight side

note in MLJ and comic book history, Stuart Logan could have grown into an interesting feature.

It's also a point of curiosity to mention that in the next issue, another Logan appears in the long-running feature of the air-ace, Loop Logan. This story was written by Joe Blair, who proliferates throughout Blue Ribbon Comics after issue #3. The artist for Loop Logan is Frank Volp, whose style in no way seems familiar to that in the Stuart Logan contribution. This offers the possibility of Jack Cole and Joe Blair teaming up to create Stuart Logan; a theory that may be worth further investigation. Blair is not listed for any feature before issue #4, so the Logan link is thin. It remains a fun 'mystery thriller of the month' to consider.

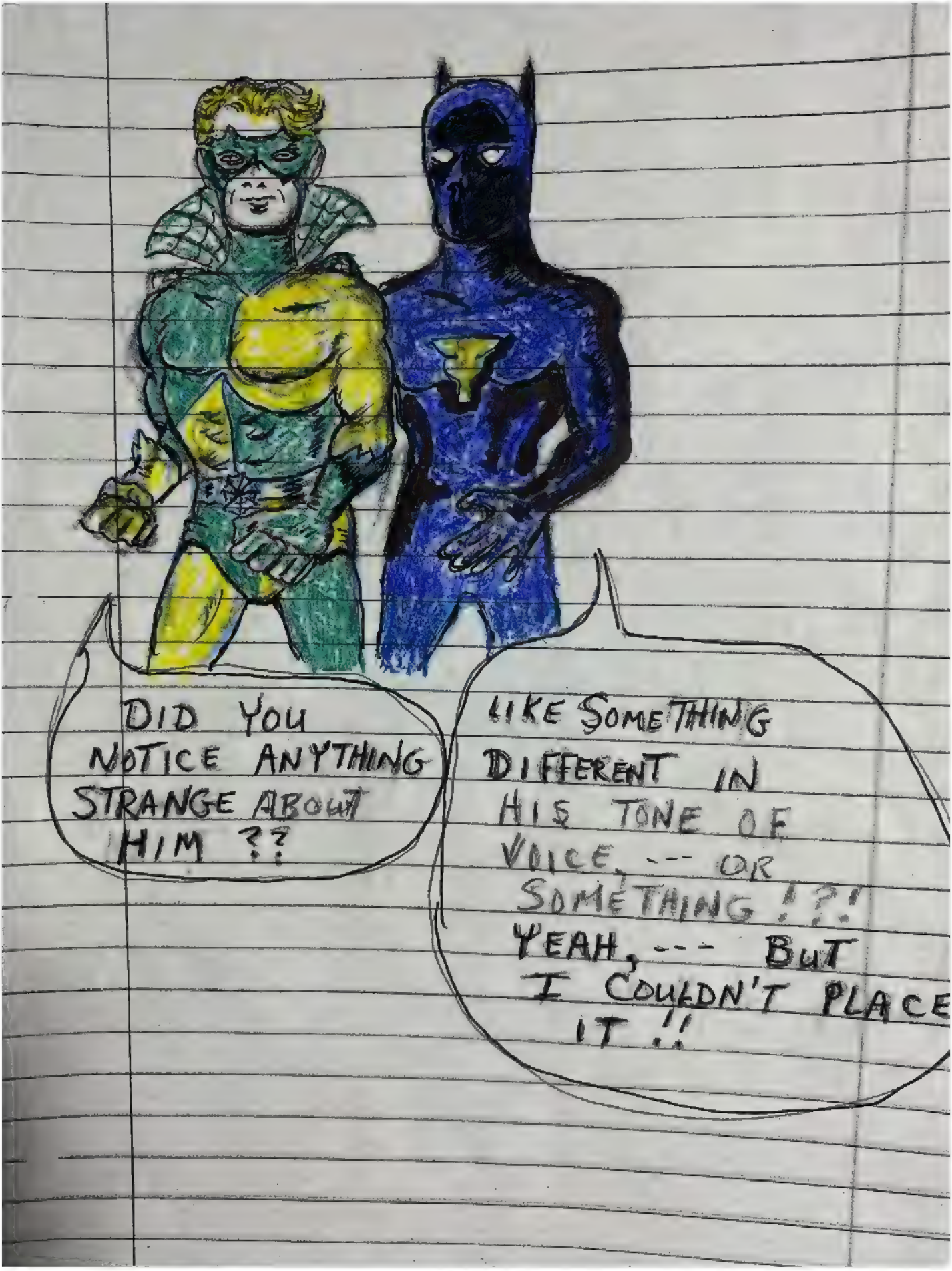
LAST DAYS OF THE FLY!!, PART 1

by Daniel St. John

I REMEMBER OUR LAST DAY TOGETHER...
HEY! OUR MICRO CHIP BEEPERS! THE SHIELD AND THE BLACK HOOD MUST BE IN TROUBLE!
YES, WITH THE LAW, NO DOUBT! KNOWING THE HOOD'S REGARD FOR THE 4TH AMENDMENT HE'S PROBABLY MADE AN ILLEGAL ARREST!
BE-DEEP
BE-DEEP
BE-DEEP

DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS, WEB! IT MAY BE ONLY A GLITCH IN THE SYSTEM!
THE JAGUAR AND I CAN FOLLOW THE 'DIRECTIONAL BEAM'-- AND CHECK IT OUT! THE REST OF YOU CAN FINISH YOUR DAILY WORKOUTS!
I BEGAN TO HAVE THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING WAS... JUST NOT RIGHT" WITH THE FLY!!
I COULD JUST FEEL IT!
WAS IT HIS 'STAND-OFFISH' STANCE??
I JUST KNEW... SOMETHING WAS WRONG!!

THE FLY THEN SIGNALLED ME!!
LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED ANY HELP!!
DON'T!! WORRY!! WE CAN HANDLE ANYTHING!!
GUYS, I'VE BEEN CALLED AWAY... UNEXPECTEDLY. ..I'LL RETURN AS SOON AS I CAN... IF I CAN!!
I WONDER WHAT THE FLY MEANS BY THAT..!?!?
SURE, - OK.! WE'LL BE ON 'STANDBY' IF YOU NEED US..!!


DID YOU NOTICE ANYTHING STRANGE ABOUT HIM ??
LIKE SOMETHING DIFFERENT IN HIS TONE OF VOICE, -- OR SOMETHING !?!
YEAH, -- BUT I COULDN'T PLACE IT !!

Comet

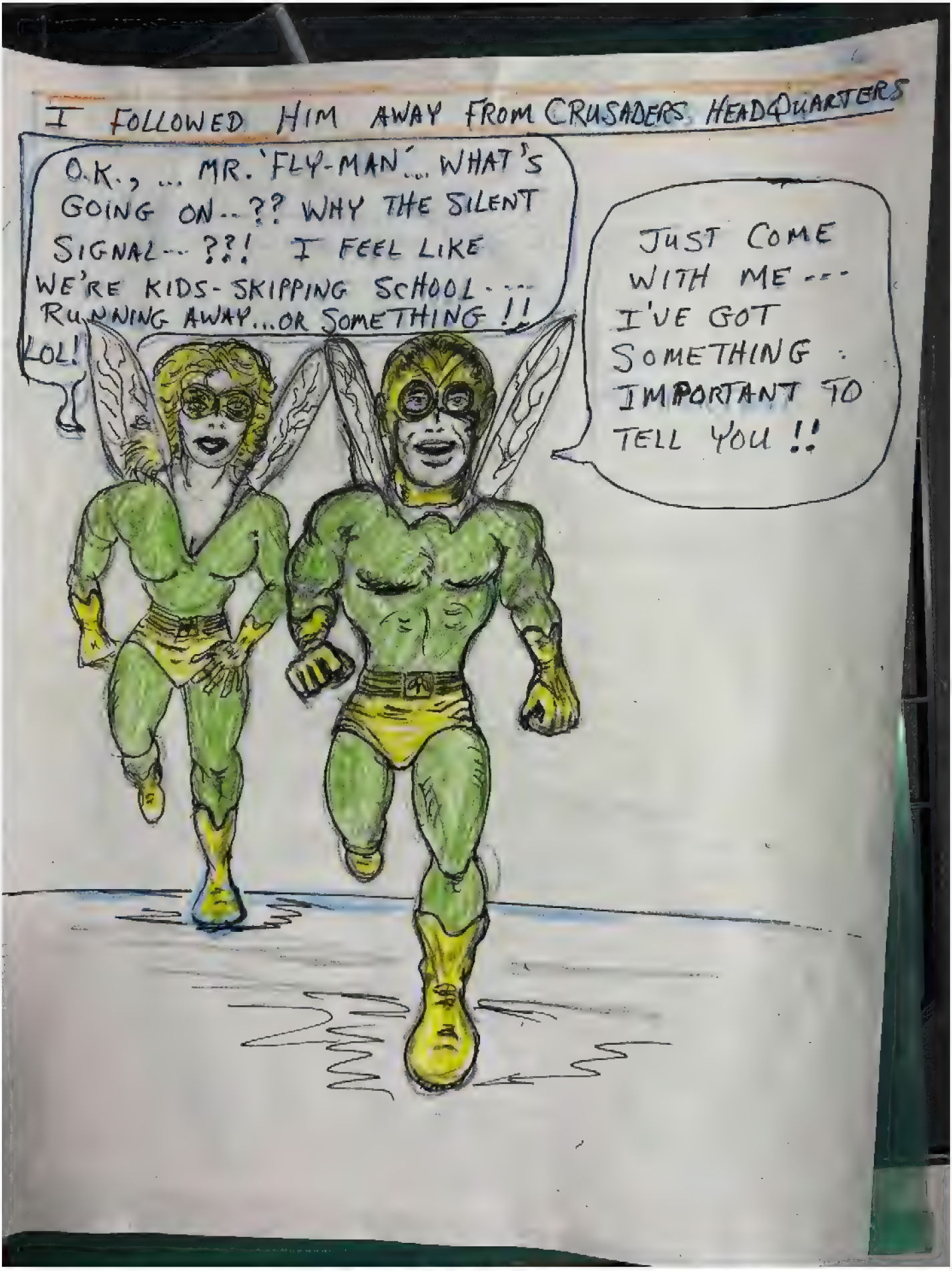
Created by: Jack Cole
Real Name: John Dickering
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Adventures of the Fly #31
First Appearance: Pep Comics #1, January 1940
Origin: John Dickering is a scientist who experimented on himself repeatedly injecting himself with a mysterious element that was fifty times lighter than Hydrogen. The side effect gave him the power of flight and deadly eyebeams that could disintegrate anything in his line of sight. To prevent his optic rays from destroying everything he saw, he designed a visor shield out of glass.

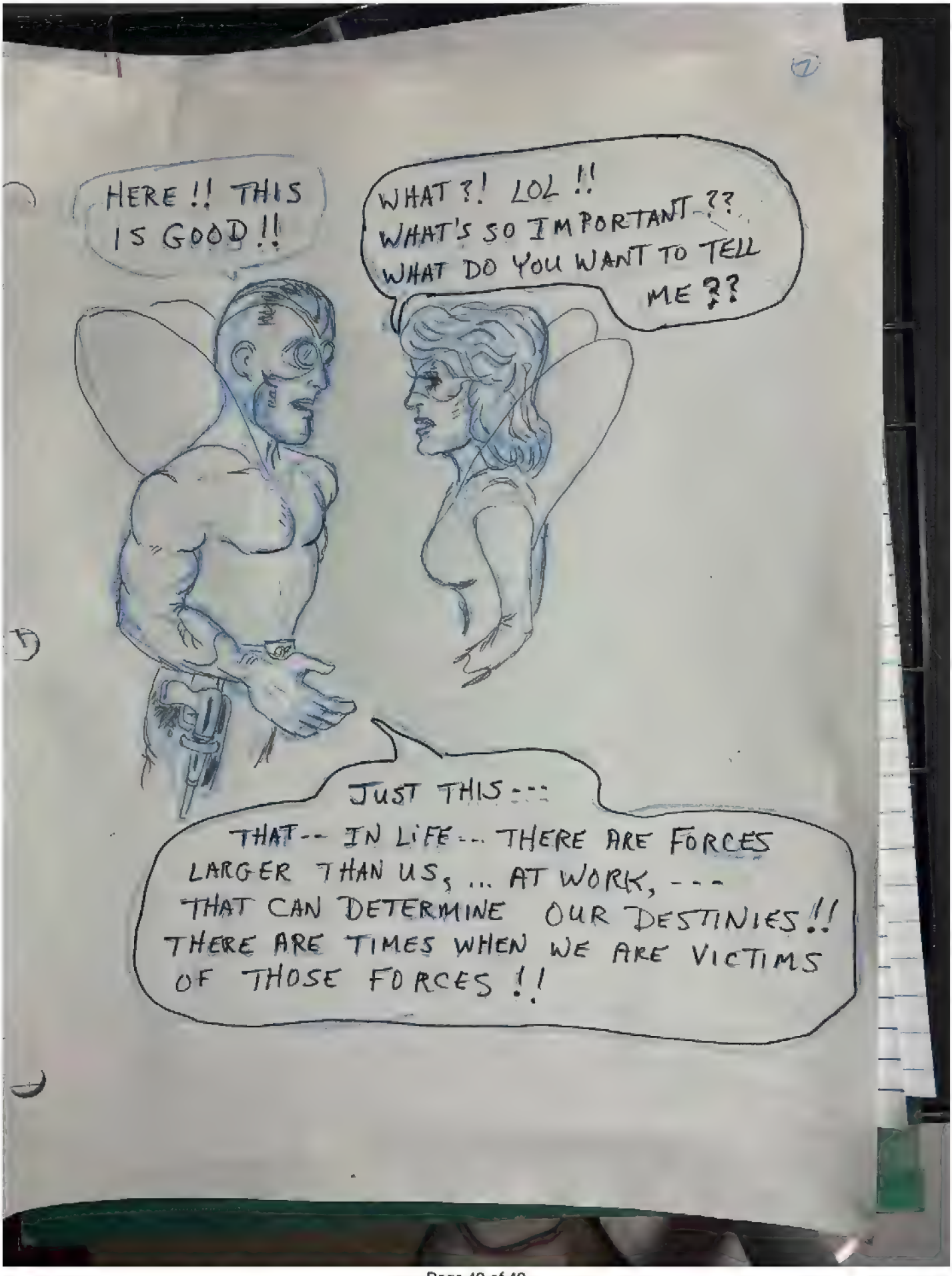
Darkling

Created by: Richard Buckler
Real Name: Darla Lang
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Mighty Crusaders (vol. 2) 3, July 1983
First Appearance: Mighty Crusaders (vol. 2) 3, July 1983
Origin: Darla dabbled in the occult, and as her abilities began to manifest, she showed great potential to become a force for good or evil. Darkling never revealed anything about herself. Her promising career as a hero came to an abrupt end when the evil Brain Emperor returned with the Riot Squad at his side. Seeing that Darkling posed a threat to him, the Brain Emperor wiped her mind clean and left her floating adrift in Limbo for years.

Falcon

Created by: Abner Sundell and Mort Meskin
Real Name: Unknown
The Falcon never joined the Mighty Crusaders
First Appearance: Pep Comics #12, February 1941
Origin: Intrepid young *Daily Express* crime reporter Flash Calvert fights gangsters to protect Central City as a guardian of the press with the aid of the mysterious Flacon.


I FOLLOWED HIM AWAY FROM CRUSADERS HEADQUARTERS
O.K., ... MR. 'FLY-MAN'... WHAT'S GOING ON--?? WHY THE SILENT SIGNAL---?!! I FEEL LIKE WE'RE KIDS-SKIPPING SCHOOL.... RUNNING AWAY...OR SOMETHING !!
LOL!
JUST COME WITH ME--- I'VE GOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU !!


HERE !! THIS IS GOOD !!
WHAT ?! LOL !! WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ?? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TELL ME ??
JUST THIS ---
THAT -- IN LIFE -- THERE ARE FORCES LARGER THAN US, .. AT WORK, --- THAT CAN DETERMINE OUR DESTINIES !! THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE ARE VICTIMS OF THOSE FORCES !!

ZAP!

JUST CHANGE THE OUTFIT TO CHANGE THE HERO

CAPTAIN ACTION

...can become any one of nine favorite comic strip super heroes!

3400-9 CAPTAIN ACTION FIGURE
Fully jointed, 12" high Captain Action Figure comes complete with his own unique uniform and accessories, including: lightning sword and special scabbard, gun, gun belt, removable boots and hat.
Pack per doz: 1 Weight: 10 lbs

Full-color box depicts Captain Action Figure in his nine super hero outfits

CAPTAIN ACTION 2019 TM & © CAE LLC

© 1966 MIGHTY COMICS

Who's Who THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE G-MAN UNIVERSE

facebook.com/groups/shieldgmanclub

indyplanet.com/?s=G-Man+Universe

A Whole New World of Comics!
INDYPLANET
Printed-on-Demand and Digital Download
Thousands of Comics From Hundreds of Independent Publishers
... with More Added EVERY SINGLE DAY!
THE GREATEST SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT COMICS AVAILABLE ANYWHERE EVER!
IndyPlanet.com

Fireball

Created by: Paul Reinman
Real Name: Ted Tyler
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Prior to Archie's Weird Mysteries #3
First Appearance: Pep Comics #12, February 1941
Origin: Ted Tyler and Engine Company No. 5 were called to put out the fires of a chemical plant. When Ted climbed in the window of the burning building, he was knocked out by the notorious pyromaniac known as The Bug. The Bug left him for dead, and the fire continued to roar and the walls begin to collapse, inside the blazing laboratory he is coated with a chemical bath that gives him the power to absorb and control flame. Fireball devotes his life to fighting firebugs with fire.

Firefly

Created by: Harry Shorten & Warren "Bob" Wood
Real Name: Harley Hudson
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Prior to Archie's Weird Mysteries #3
First Appearance: Top-Notch Comics #8, September 1940
Origin: Harley Hudson, a chemist, biologist and entomologist, was studying insects when he realized that their strength and leaping ability, so much greater than their size, came from their "wonderful muscular coordination." So he modeled himself on them and soon gained equivalent abilities, which he put to use in fighting crime. He has superhuman strength and leaping ability.

The Fly

Created by: Joe Simon & Jack Kirby
Real Name: Thomas Troy
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Adventures of the Fly #31
First Appearance: Adventures of the Fly #1, August 1959
Origin: Young Tommy Troy snuck into the attic of his employer, Mr. March, who was rumored to be a sorcerer. Stumbling upon an unusual ring, Tommy placed it on his finger and suddenly found himself face to face with Turan, the emissary of the alien Fly People. Turan designated Tommy to be their champion, enabling him to wield all the powers of the lost fly race. By rubbing his magic ring, he was transformed into the mighty Fly.

Fly Girl

Created by: Robert Bernstein & John Rosenberger
Real Name: Kim Brand
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Adventures of the Fly #32
First Appearance: Adventures of the Fly #13, July 1961
Origin: Kim Brand slipped and fell out of a hotel window, and the Fly rescued her. She fell in love with the Fly. An enemy of the Fly thought to outwit the Fly by creating two crimes at the same time, assuming that the Fly could never handle both at once. Turan, Emissary of the Fly People, appeared to Kim Brand and offered her a Fly Ring and she became Fly Girl.

Fox

Created by: Joe Blair & Irwin Hasen
Real Name: Paul Patten
Joined Mighty Crusaders: The Fox never joined the Mighty Crusaders
First Appearance: Blue Ribbon Comics #4, June 1940
Origin: Paul Patten is a photographer for The Daily Globe. Using his skills as a star athlete at Penn State University he became the Fox to further his photojournalistic career. As a crimefighter, when crime happens, he is the first photographer on the scene with his camera.

Hangman

Created by: Cliff Campbell & George Storm
Real Name: Robert Dickering
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Never joined the Mighty Crusaders.
First Appearance: Pep #17, July 1941
Origin: Robert “Bob” Dickering was the brother of John Dickering, The Comet. When John was about to go to trial as a chief witness against racketeer "Big Boy Malone," the gang leader sent orders to kidnap him. A few days later, Malone's henchmen entered John's apartment and grabbed Bob by mistake. Before they could force him into their getaway car, The Comet came to his brother's rescue, but was gunned down in a hail of bullets and mortally wounded. With his brother dying, Bob swore to carry on the fight against crime and became, The Hangman.

Inferno

Created by: Joe Blair & Paul Reinman
Real Name: Frank Verrano
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Prior to Archie's Weird Mysteries #3
First Appearance: Zip #10, January 1941
Origin: Inferno is reformed criminal and a circus fire-breather who fights crime by breathing fire from his mouth; he can burn his way through steel doors and walls and can melt bullets before they reach him. Inferno fights crime, as the circus worker, moving from town to town, and then later as a private eye.

Jaguar

Created by: Robert Bernstein & John Rosenberger
Real Name: Ralph Hardy
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Mighty Crusaders (vol. 2) #1
First Appearance:Adventures of the Jaguar #1, September 1961
Origin: Ralph Hardy was on an archaeological dig in Peru when a giant serpent burst forth from the ground and began terrorizing the area. Hardy fled into a ruined temple and found a series of cave drawings depicting the ancient Incas battling the same monster and a mystical belt with an inscription reading "He who loves the animal kingdom may wear this belt and be transformed into a human jaguar." Ralph Hardy put on the belt and became the Jaguar.

Mr. Justice

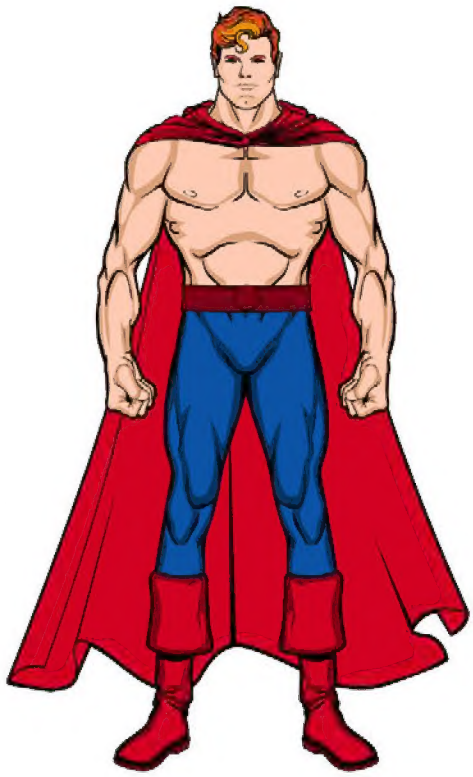
Created by: Joe Blair & Sam Cooper
Real Name: Prince James of England (aka Paul Morse)
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Prior to Archie's Weird Mysteries #3
First Appearance: Blue Ribbon Comics #9, February 1941
Origin: The hero known to many as "Mr. Justice" was born in the 11th Century as Prince James of England. Murdered in Scotland during the Rogers Rebellion, his spirit haunted the castle where he was slain. Hundreds of years later the castle was transplanted to the United States, disturbing the angry spirit within. A stranger to both the land and the time period, James's vengeful ghost was molded by the theatrics of the new superhero era. For a time he served among the Mighty Crusaders and took the name "Mr. Justice."

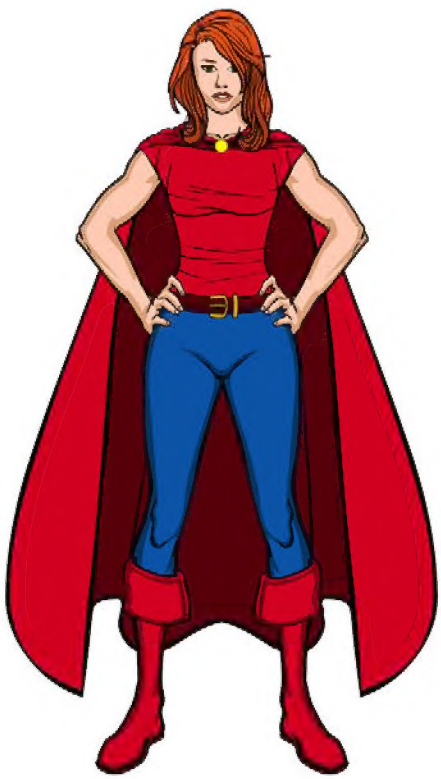
Mr. Satan

Created by: Abner Sundell & Edd Ashe
Real Name: Dudley Bradshaw
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Not a member of the Mighty Crusaders
First Appearance: Zip Comics #1, February 1940
Origin: Dudley Bradshaw, seemingly a wealthy young playboy, is in reality none other than Mr. Satan, the Danger Devil—international detective and soldier of fortune. His is name meant to instill fear in the defilers of justice. His skills as a fighter and acrobat are formidable if not impossible. He does not sport any superpowers or special gadgets.

Red Rube

Created by: Ed Robbins
Real Name: Reuben Reuben
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Not a member of the Mighty Crusaders.
First Appearance: Zip Comics #39, August 1943
Origin: Red Rube was given a magical gift, whenever he shouts "HEY RUBE!" he is transformed from a child into an adult Super Hero. Reuben is an orphan who ran away from the cruelty of the orphanage where he lived. Reuben hid in a castle on top of the nearby hill. There an old man gave him a magic elixir that put him in touch with his ancestors, each named Reuben Reuben. Each relative gave him an aspect of their greatness—stamina, strength, courage, speed and intelligence—which together render him superhuman.





Ruby Red

Created by: Jim Burrows
Real Name: Rachel Reuben
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Not a member of the Mighty Crusaders
First Appearance: Agent Shield #67, April 2019
Origin: Rachel "Ruby" Reuben is Reuben Reuben's little sister, and shares his ability to transform into a superhero. Rube and Ruby raised in separate orphanages, but eventually, they met and in a surprising and fortuitous accident she learned that by calling out, "Hey, Rube!", she, too, could transform into an adult ultra hero, clad in a costume very like his and wielding the powers of their ancestors.

Shield

Created by: Irv Novick & Harry Shorten
Real Name: Joe Higgins
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Prior to Mighty Crusaders (vol. 2) #1
First Appearance: Pep Comics #1, January 1940
Origin: Joe was the son of Thomas Higgins, a government biochemist and member of the Burning Hand—a secret society formed to protect America. Thomas was attempting to recreate the powers of the legendary Shield when he was killed by Axis-allied spies. Joe completed his father's research and applied it to himself, becoming the Shield. After WWII he became an F.B.I. investigator, using his intel and super-powers to combat organized crime. Joe has acted as the organizer and leader of various incarnations of the Mighty Crusaders.

Shield (Canadian)

Created by: Irv Novick & Harry Shorten
Real Name: Joe Higgins
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Not a member of the Mighty Crusaders
First Appearance: Super Comics #1, 1942
Origin: Canadian Joe Higgins, was the son of scientist Tom Higgins, whose research had included a quest for a chemical to give super-powers to ordinary humans. With success within his grasp, the elder Higgins was killed by foreign agents. The son, an R.C.M.P., used the process on himself, then put together a skin-tight outfit based on the Canadian flag (during World War II Canada used the Union Jack) to become Mountie Extraordinaire, the Shield, using his super-powers to combat crime.

Shield

Created by: Joe Simon & Jack Kirby
Real Name: Lancelot Strong (Adopted Name)
Roger Flemming (Birth Name)
Joined Mighty Crusaders: Prior to Mighty Crusaders (vol. 2) #1, March 1983
First Appearance: The Double Life of Private Strong #1, June 1959
Origin: Dr. Malcolm Flemming raised his son Roger to use the untapped portions of the human brain, thus making him a superhuman. After Communist spies kill Dr. Flemming; the Strong's, a farm couple, raise Roger. Once he hit his teens, he discovered the truth of his background and his powers. His father had created a patriotic costume for him, and he started off as the new superhero, the Shield. He soon joined the Army, with only life as a soldier and a man with a double life as a superhero the Shield.